

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 065192

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PFOR, CSCE, SWEL, EEW, OVIP, RO

SUBJECT:DEPUTY SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH ROMANIAN AMBASSA-
DOR, MARCH 23

1. SUMMARY: AMBASSADOR NICOLAE'S 20-MINUTE SESSION WITH
DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER TOUCHED ON FURTHER EARTHQUAKE
RELIEF, THE POSSIBILITY OF PRESIDENTIAL VISITS,
ECONOMIC RELATIONS, MFN/EMIGRATION, AND CSCE CONSULTATIONS.
NICOLAE SAID HE HAD JUST RECEIVED FROM BRZEZINSKI PRESIDENT
CARTER'S LETTER TO CEAUSESCU (SEPTTEL) WHICH HE WILL DELIVER
WHEN HE RETURNS TO BUCHAREST IN NEXT FEW DAYS. END SUMMARY.

2. DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER RECEIVED AMBASSADOR NICO-
LAE AT LATTER'S REQUEST FOR BRIEF REVIEW OF RELATIONS BE-
FORE NICOLAE RETURNS TO BUCHAREST FOR JOINT CENTRAL COM-
MITTEE/GRAND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SESSION. DEPUTY ASSISTANT
SECRETARY ARMITAGE AND SILINS PARTICIPATED. ROMANIAN PAR-
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TICIPANTS INCLUDED IONITA AND RACEANU.

3. EARTHQUAKE. DEPUTY SECRETARY EXPRESSED SADNESS AT LOSS
OF LIFE AND DAMAGE FROM MARCH 4 EARTHQUAKE. AS A CALIFORN-
IAN HE WAS FAMILIAR WITH THE PANIC AND DEVASTATION AN EARTH-
QUAKE CAN CAUSE. WE WOULD LIKE TO BE OF FURTHER HELP
AND ARE SEEKING MEANS TO DO SO. SPECIAL LEGISLATION WILL

PROBABLY BE REQUIRED. NICOLAE SAID ROMANIAN EMBASSY WAS GREATLY HEARTENED BY HUNDREDS OF SYMPATHETIC LETTERS AND OVER 1200 PHONE CALLS RECEIVED SO FAR; THESE PROVIDED GREAT PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT. CONCURRENT RESOLUTION PASSED BY CONGRESS LAST WEEK HAD BEEN SIGNIFICANT STEP. NEXT STEP (I.E. ADDITIONAL U.S. GOVERNMENT AID) WOULD ALSO BE IMPORTANT.

4. PRESIDENTIAL VISITS. NICOLAE HAD JUST COME FROM A MEETING WITH NSC ADVISOR BRZEZINSKI, WHO HAD GIVEN NICOLAE PRESIDENT CARTER'S REPLY TO CEAUSESCU'S FEBRUARY 18 LETTER (SEPTEL). NICOLAE SAID CEAUSESCU'S LETTER HAD "INVITED" PRESIDENT CARTER TO VISIT ROMANIA. FYI. THIS IS NOT ACCURATE; LETTER DOES NOT RPT NOT EXTEND FORMAL INVITATION. END FYI. NICOLAE SAID HE HAD NOT HAD TIME FOR FULL DISCUSSION OF POSSIBILITY OF PRESIDENTIAL VISITS WITH DR. BRZEZINSKI, BUT SAID ROMANIANS WOULD LIKE TO ARRANGE A VISIT (PRESUMABLY BY CEAUSESCU TO THE U.S.) SOON. HE SAID IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT SUCH A VISIT TAKE PLACE THIS YEAR. DEPUTY SECRETARY POINTED OUT THAT A PRESIDENT'S FIRST YEAR IN OFFICE WAS A VERY DIFFICULT TIME TO MAKE SUCH ARRANGEMENTS. THE SCHEDULE IS ALREADY VERY CONGESTED, AND PRESIDENT CARTER IS DEEPLY OCCUPIED WITH LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES AND SUCH THORNY ISSUES AS ENERGY POLICY. HE ADDED THAT HE HOPED TIME COULD BE FOUND "IN THE RELATIVELY NEAR FUTURE."

5. ECONOMIC RELATIONS. NICOLAE SAID HE WANTED TO UNDER-CONFIDENTIAL

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LINE ROMANIAN INTEREST IN DEVELOPING TRADE RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. AND SAID PRESIDENTS FORD AND CEAUSESCU HAD AGREED ON A GOAL OF \$1 BILLION IN TWO-WAY TRADE BY 1980. IN A REFERENCE TO IMPORT RESTRAINTS, HE ADDED THAT THE U.S. SHOULD TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION THE FACT THAT IN MOST AREAS ROMANIA WAS NEW TO THE U.S. MARKET AND SHOULD NOT BE TREATED IN THE SAME WAY AS COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE A LONG-ESTABLISHED TRADE WITH THE U.S. DEPUTY SECRETARY SAID HE UNDERSTOOD NICOLAE'S POINT AND WE WOULD DO WHAT WE COULD TO ACCOMMODATE IT.

6. MFN RENEWAL/EMIGRATION. NICOLAE REFERRED TO THE NEED FOR ANNUAL REVIEW AND EXTENSION OF ROMANIA'S ELIGIBILITY FOR MOST-FAVORED-NATION TARIFF STATUS, IMPLYING THIS WAS BURDENSOME. ARMITAGE POINTED OUT OUR MAIN NEED IS FOR SOMETHING WE CAN USE WITH CONGRESS TO GAIN ANNUAL APPROVAL. AT PRESENT, PROGRESS ON MEMBERS OF DIVIDED FAMILIES COMING TO THE U.S. WAS GOOD AND WE HAD RECEIVED PROMISING INFORMATION WITH REGARD TO ISSUANCE OF PASSPORTS FOR EMIGRA-

TION TO ISRAEL. DEPUTY SECRETARY SAID HE UNDERSTOOD

MATTERS WERE GOING WELL, ADDING THAT PERHAPS RESULTS OF NICOLAE'S PRESENT CONSULTATION TRIP OR SUBSEQUENT EVENTS WOULD GIVE US ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR USE IN DISCUSSIONS WITH CONGRESS.

7. CSCE CONSULTATIONS. NICOLAE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD AMBASSADOR LIPATTI WOULD BE COMING TO WASHINGTON IN APRIL FOR CSCE CONSULTATIONS AND WANTED TO KNOW WHAT ISSUES IN PARTICULAR WOULD BE COVERED SO ROMANIAN SIDE COULD BE FULLY PREPARED. AT ARMITAGE'S SUGGESTION, DEPARTMENT PROVIDED NICOLAE WITH SUGGESTED AGENDA BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE. (COPY BEING POUCHED.)

8. NICOLAE SAID UPCOMING JOINT CC/GNA SESSION IN BUCHAREST WOULD FOCUS ON (1) MEASURES REQUIRED TO MOBILIZE RESOURCES
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AND POPULATION TO MAINTAIN RATE OF ECONOMIC GROWTH IN WAKE OF EARTHQUAKE, AND (2) INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS. HE EXPECTS TO SPEND ABOUT TWO WEEKS IN BUCHAREST AND WILL BE IN TOUCH WITH AMBASSADOR BARNES.

9. DEPUTY SECRETARY THANKED NICOLAE FOR CALL, ADDING THAT WE WANT NOT ONLY GOOD BUT IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH ROMANIA.
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Message Attributes

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